(c) and (d) No, Sir. Indian farmers have not rejected bio-cultivation. In fact, the sustenance in agriculture of a large number of farmers depends on bio-cultivation with no or low external input. The measures taken up in the interest of the farmers include strengthening research on plant breeding and biotechnology for development of varieties resistant to pests and diseases, and formulating package of practices for Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Nutrient Management for various crops.

Eriophyid mite disease of coconut in Karnataka

3347. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many coconut trees are affected due to Eriophyid mite in Karnataka;

(b) whether the State Government has sent any proposal for financial assistance to control Eriophyid mite on coconut palm;

(c) if so, the amount sought for; and

(d) the amount released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a)The expert team constituted by Government of India to conduct roving survey, visited mite infested areas in Karnataka and reported 185 lakh mite affected coconut palms in the State.

(b) and (c) During 2001-2002, Government of Karnataka submitted a proposal to the Coconut Development Board seeking financial assistance of Rs. 166 crores for control of Eriophyid mite of coconut.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1350.40 lakhs has been released so far to the Government of Karnataka during the period 1998-99 to 2001-2002.

Field trials of Hybrid Transgenic Mustard

3348. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given clearance for large scale multilocational field trials and commercialization of hybrid transgenic mustard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agronomic performance and bio-safety aspects of the hybrid have been evaluated; and